

Evening Telegraph

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The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 1 1/2 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 2 1/2, 3 1/2, and 4 1/2. Whenever there is important news of the progress of the European war, extra editions will be issued after this hour, and before the regular time for the early edition.

THE TRUCE IN THE EAST.

MANY persons regarded the courageous words of Earl Granville's first utterances on the Black Sea question as bluster, believing that England would not fight for an idea, even though that idea involved her supremacy in the Indies. It is a popular belief, in this country at least, that the nation of shopkeepers is a nation of cowards. This may or may not be so, according to one's standpoint. The paramount interests of Great Britain are of such a peculiar character, and the relations of the home government to many of the territories which it rules are of such a delicate and dangerous nature, that a foreign war involves a degree of peril that must be averted, even at the occasional expense of national dignity. In short, England cannot afford to fight, and if this be cowardice, she is the most arrant of cowards.

But, happily for her and the peace of the world, Earl Granville has found a loophole expansive and elastic enough to suffer him to creep through without entirely drawing in his horns. In the name of her Majesty's Government—and in this case, for a rarity, her Majesty is supposed to have had so nothing to say about the business—the noble Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has "no objection to accept the invitation which has been made by Russia to a conference, upon the understanding that it assemble without any foregone conclusion as to its result. In such case," Earl Granville continues, "her Majesty's Government will be glad to consider, with perfect fairness and the respect due to a great and friendly power, any proposals which Russia may have to make." The remainder of his answer to Prince Gortschakoff's second note, the full text of which reached us yesterday, is equally conciliatory in tone. Earl Granville tenders as a compromise the acknowledgment that Russia has the right to "form and state an opinion" as to her own privileges, and simply demands in return that she shall delay action in conformity with this "opinion" until she has consulted the other powers. Construing Prince Gortschakoff's tender of a conference as equivalent to such an admission, Earl Granville declares the obstacle to friendly relations removed, and the preliminary controversy which at one time threatened the peace of Europe, as far as Europe has any peace, as practically closed.

And so there is to be no appeal to the sword—at least, not until the representatives of the great powers have talked the matter over in London. It is well that it is so; and, despite the grumblings which this country entertains at the hands of Great Britain, no true American, indeed no true man, will regret the prospect of a peaceful solution of the whole trouble. Taking into consideration the temper and interests of the English people, Earl Granville has pulled them through the preliminary flourish remarkably well. He has compelled Russia to acknowledge her obligations to regard and consult the wishes of the powers which were co-signatory to the Treaty of Paris, and on the strength of this admission he is content, and adroitly ignores the possibilities of the future. But Russia has gained rather than lost by this graceful concession. She has at last, after submitting for fourteen years to the humiliating conditions of the treaty of 1856, had the audacity to "form and state her own opinion of her rights," and Great Britain, as leader and spokesman of the antagonistic powers, has acknowledged her right to so "form and state" such an opinion, on the sole condition that the course she has taken be regarded "as an abrogation of a theoretical principle without immediate application." If "the Man of Sedan" were still upon the throne of France, the "abrogation of a theoretical principle," even "without immediate application," would have been resented with as much fury and futility as he resented the "check and menace" of Prince Leopold's candidature for the throne of Spain. Russia wisely deferred to "state" the opinions which she doubtless formed years ago, until the folly of Napoleon made it comparatively safe for her to do so; and she can now patiently and profitably await the assembling of the conference before insisting on an "immediate application" of the "abrogation of a theoretical principle" which has been obnoxious to her for years. The result of the conference is, of course, a foregone conclusion, although Earl Granville insists that it shall not be so considered. Russia, having started Europe by "forming and stating her own opinion of her rights," will be suffered to enforce and enjoy them, and that will be the end of it.

THE PORTER CORRESPONDENCE.

HISTORY abounds with lamentable proofs that heroes have often wonderfully mean elements or woful mental deficiencies interwoven with their fighting qualities. Men may win brilliant battles by sea or by land and still be wanting in the most essential elements of true manhood. Napoleon the First, with all his great intellectual endowments, was so painfully deficient in moral qualities that he scarcely knew the difference between right and wrong. Modern English critics of the Duke of Wellington denounce him as a stupid, pig-headed, narrow-minded man, despite his success as a soldier. The great English hero of the last century, the Duke of Marlborough, has become more notorious for his avarice than for his victory at Blenheim. One of the greatest of English naval heroes was tried, found guilty, and ignominiously condemned for perpetrating a gigantic fraud upon the brokers of the London Stock Exchange. This list of proofs that exalted intelligence, a high sense of honor, and strict rectitude do not always go hand in hand with skilled valor might be indefinitely extended; and Vice-Admiral Porter's correspondence has furnished evidence that even American heroes are not uniformly habituated in an iron-clad armor of prudence, rectitude, and unselfish patriotism. The best defense of Porter's letter to Welles is to be found in the fact that at the time it was written the feeling of mutual jealousy between the army and navy, which had gradually increased with each new combined operation of land and naval forces, had reached a culminating point; but Porter, for obvious reasons, cannot put in this plea, and the line of defense he has adopted—of first denying all recollection of the authorship of the offensive letter, then publishing a series of extracts of questionable appropriateness from his private diary, and finally acknowledging that he wrote the ill-starred epistle, but that the whole tenor of its contents is diametrically opposed to his real sentiments now and at all former times—is altogether untenable. We do not consider that the President should lose his faith in human nature because an ambitious commodore who toadied to Welles in the days of his power should now toady to the dispenser of admiralities, in spite of the harsh things said in 1865. Grant ought by this time to know that the office-seeking world swarms with men who not only "crook the pregnant hinges of the knee, that thrift may follow fawning," but undergo the most extraordinary mental, moral, and physical gyrations to climb the ladder of ambition. He should not lose his faith in human nature on account of any possible exhibition by his train of office-seekers of high or low degree. He should be prepared to expect from them a succession of the meanest and most despicable devices that unprincipled courtiers can invent; but at the same time he should never forget that beyond the misanthropic official atmosphere that immediately surrounds him an immeasurable expanse of pure patriotism and unsullied integrity can be found among the great body of the American people. As to Porter, we can scarcely blame the President for resolving, like Othello, "never more be officer of mine;" but no summary judgment should be pronounced against 10,000,000 of citizens on account of any conceivable peccadillo of the office-holding or office-seeking fraction of this great mass of patriotic humanity. Practically, the Porter correspondence will dispose of the writer's pretensions to the position of Admiral of the American Navy. It is very probable that the office will be abolished by Congress, and it is clearly apparent that Porter is not a proper man to hold it.

THE FISHERY QUESTION.

FOLLOWING close upon the strong language of the President's message concerning our Canadian relations, in which he declares that it will be his duty, in case of the forfeiture of any United States fishing vessel under the Dominion statutes, to adopt measures for obtaining redress and to prevent such outrages in the future, comes the announcement that a fishing schooner seized last June has actually been forfeited, with her stores, cargo, etc., for violation of the treaty of 1818 and the Canadian fishery laws. Of course, there may have been circumstances that made this forfeiture justifiable, but the probabilities are that it was made under the Canadian construction of the treaty and under the statutes the President complains of as designedly unfriendly to the United States. This is certainly a case that demands the attention of our Government, and it probably affords as good an opportunity as ever will be offered to bring the whole fishery controversy to a direct issue, and to secure its settlement upon a basis that will admit of no misunderstandings in the future. According to the despatch from Toronto, published this morning, the Canadian papers discuss the President's message in a rather bellicose strain, but as the peaceful policy uniformly pursued by our Government has never impressed our northern neighbors with that respect which can only be born of fear, this sort of thing may be looked for until both England and Canada receive undisputed evidence that the United States are determined to be trifled with no longer. We have not only the fishery question but a number of other matters of controversy with England and Canada, and the present is probably as good a time to settle all our disputes as can be found. England is now on the verge of a war with Russia that will demand all her energies, and she has a well-defined fear, founded upon the performances of the Alabama, that in the event of a contest the sympathies of the people if not of the Government of the United States will be actively manifested in a manner that will do more damage to the Russians than will the arms of the English. We commend to the attention of our readers the editorial from the London Saturday Review, entitled "The

Hour of Danger," which we publish to-day on our second page; and it will readily be seen that the situation is thought to be extremely critical, and that the approach of the storm of guilty conscience imagines to be arising in the West as well as in the East are viewed with anything but feelings of pleasure by those who wished the destruction of the American Union, and who aided to bring it about by every means in their power except open warfare. What we have not been able to obtain from British magnanimity and justice we may possibly extort from British fear, and it is both proper and just that we should take advantage of the present situation to press our claims in such a manner that Great Britain will be obliged to settle them satisfactorily or else repudiate them and take the consequences. From the tone of the President's message we may expect him to take prompt action in regard to the forfeiture of the fishing schooner mentioned above, and if he does so he should receive the emphatic support of Congress and of the people.

A QUESTION OF RANK.—It is reported that Count von Moltke is not to be overlooked in making field marshals of those who have rendered great service in this war. But his elevation to this rank is not to take place until Paris yields to his genius. There is difficulty to know what to do for Count von Bismarck. Already a count, already head of Prussia, and soon to be leader of all Germany, there remains no further honor but to make him a prince; and one of the many stories and guesses in circulation on this subject is that he was to be made Prince of Ansee; but this he would not have, because it compelled a change of his family name.

OBITUARY.

General Hiram Walbridge. Yesterday afternoon General Hiram Walbridge, a well-known politician and business man, died in New York city. His native place was Ithaca, N. Y., where he was born February 2, 1821. He was consequently only in his thirtieth year at the time of his death. When young he commenced life by learning a mechanical trade, but afterwards pursued an extensive course of studies in the University of Ohio. For a number of years he took an active interest in the military affairs of that State, and when only twenty-three years of age, was elected a brigadier-general of the Ohio militia. Subsequently he removed to New York, and was there elected to Congress in 1853. During his life he held many prominent business and other positions, among which may be mentioned the presidency of the Detroit Commercial Convention. General Walbridge was at various times connected with many of the largest railroad enterprises, and as a business man was very successful. He was equally interested in politics and was a good, hard-working Republican. His name was mentioned in connection with the official position of Secretary of State when it was rumored last summer that the present incumbent, Hamilton Fish, was about to resign.

NOTICES.

WINTER VESTS. ALL WOOL, FOR ONE DOLLAR. An excellent serviceable article—selling much below their value. Half-way between Fifth and Sixth streets. BENNETT & CO., TOWER HALL, No. 513 MARKET STREET.

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DR. SAUNDERS was complimented last night, upon being introduced for his lecture, that he had aided Philadelphia in sending 93,000 men to the field, without coercion, more than any other man. The room was crowded, the applause frequent, the lecture grand. He was solicited at the close to deliver it at the Academy of Music.

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